

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 16. (Previously Canceled)

17. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for processing a substrate, comprising:

a) an indexer portion comprising
a downside structure comprising a transfer robot for transferring a substrate from/to a carrier
capable to hold a plurality of substrates, and
an upside structure defined above said downside structure and comprising an inspection
section operable to inspect said substrate; and

b) a processing portion comprising
an arrangement of processing units for applying a series of processing to said substrate
transferred from said transfer robot, and
a transport robot for transporting said substrate between said arrangement of processing
units, wherein

a plane area of said upside structure projected onto a horizontal plane is included in a plane
area of said downside structure projected onto said horizontal plan, and wherein

said upside structure is provided in a location out of a range in which said transfer robot
moves for transferring substrate between said carrier and said processing portion; and
said transfer robot comprises:

a transfer arm for holding said substrate, and
a telescopic multistage structure on which said transfer arm is provided, said telescopic
multistage structure being operable to expand and contract whereby said transfer arm is capable of
accessing said carrier and said inspection section.

18. (Previously Amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein
said inspection section comprises a plurality of inspection units horizontally separated with
each other across a gap space, and
said transfer robot is operable to access to each inspection unit from said gap space.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein said inspection section includes at least one of:

- a resist thickness measurement unit for measuring thickness of resist formed on said substrate;
- a pattern line width measurement unit for measuring line width of lines forms on said substrate;
- a pattern superposition measurement for measuring superposition of circuit patterns formed on said substrate; and
- a macro defect inspection for detecting macro defect on said substrate.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein said inspection section includes

- a complex inspection unit for measuring thickness of resist formed on said substrate, line width of lines formed on said substrate, and for measuring superposition of circuit patterns formed on said substrate, and
- a macro defect inspection unit for detecting macro defect on said substrate.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a substrate, comprising:

- a) an indexer portion comprising
 - a downside structure comprising a transfer robot for transferring a substrate from/to a carrier capable to hold a plurality of substrates, and
 - an upside structure defined above said downside structure and comprising an inspection section operable to inspect said substrate; and
 - b) a processing portion comprising
 - an arrangement of processing units for applying a series of processing to said substrate transferred from said transfer robot, and
 - a transport robot for transporting said substrate between said arrangement of processing units, wherein
 - a plane area of said upside structure projected onto a horizontal plane is included in a plane area of said downside structure projected onto said horizontal plane, and wherein

said downside structure comprises a carrier stage on which a plurality of carriers each containing a plurality of substrates are aligned, and
said upside structure is provided over an alignment of said plurality of substrates; and
said transfer robot comprises:
a transfer arm for holding said substrate, and
a telescopic multistage structure on which said transfer arm is provided, said telescopic multistage structure being operable to expand and contract whereby said transfer arm is capable of accessing said carrier and said inspection section.

22. (Previously Amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein
said inspection section comprises a plurality of inspection units horizontally separated with
each other across a gap space, and
said transfer robot is operable to access each inspection unit from said gap space.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein
said inspection section includes at least one of:
a resist thickness measurement unit for measuring thickness of resist formed on said
substrate;
a pattern line width measurement unit for measuring line width of lines forms on said
substrate;
a pattern superposition measurement for measuring superposition of circuit patterns formed
on said substrate; and
a macro defect inspection for detecting macro defect on said substrate.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein
said inspection section includes
a complex inspection unit for measuring thickness of resist formed on said substrate, line
width of lines formed on said substrate, and for measuring superposition of circuit patterns formed
on said substrate, and
a macro defect inspection unit for detecting macro defect on said substrate.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a substrate, comprising:

a) an indexer portion comprising
a downside structure comprising a transfer robot for transferring a substrate from/to a carrier capable to hold a plurality of substrates, and
an upside structure defined above said downside structure and comprising an inspection section operable to inspect said substrate; and

b) a processing portion comprising
an arrangement of processing units for applying a series of processing to said substrate transferred from said transfer robot, and
a transport robot for transporting said substrate between said arrangement of processing units, wherein

a plane area of said upside structure projected onto a horizontal plane is included in a plane area of said downside structure projected onto said horizontal plane, and wherein

a clean air product is provided under said inspection section to supply clean air to said downside structure; and

said transfer robot comprises:

a transfer arm for holding said substrate, and
a telescopic multistage structure on which said transfer arm is provided, said telescopic multistage structure being operable to expand and contract whereby said transfer arm is capable of accessing said carrier and said inspection section.

26. (Previously Amended) The apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said inspection section comprises a plurality of inspection units horizontally separated with each other across a gap space, and

said transfer robot is operable to access each inspection unit from said gap space.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said inspection section includes at least one of:

a resist thickness measurement unit for measuring thickness of resist formed on said substrate;

a pattern line width measurement unit for measuring line width of lines forms on said substrate;

a pattern superposition measurement for measuring superposition of circuit patterns formed on said substrate; and

a macro defect inspection for detecting macro defect on said substrate.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said inspection section includes

a complex inspection unit for measuring thickness of resist formed on said substrate, line width of lines formed on said substrate, and for measuring superposition of circuit patterns formed on said substrate, and

a macro defect inspection unit for detecting macro defect on said substrate.

29. (Previously Added) The apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein said inspection section comprises an inspection unit provided on an upper corner of said indexer.

30. (Previously Added) The apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein said inspection section comprises an inspection unit provided on an upper corner of said indexer.

31. (Previously Added) The apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein said inspection section comprises an inspection unit provided on an upper corner of said indexer.